

REMARKS

The Office Action of April 24, 2006, has been considered by the Applicants. Claims 1, 17, 22, and 29 have been amended. Claims 3-5, 16, and 26-28 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 6-8, 13-15, 17, 22, and 29 are pending. Reconsideration of the Application is requested.

The claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Hamano (U.S. Patent No. 6,500,594) in view of JP 06-180511.

The claims were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Sacripante (U.S. Patent No. 6,140,003) in view of JP 06-180511.

Applicants traverse these two rejections together.

Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to recite that the alkyl amide is stearyl stearamide. Independent claim 29 has been amended to recite the alkyl amide is stearyl stearamide and that the sulfopolyester resin is within a given range of Mn and Mw. Neither Hamano, Sacripante, nor JP 06-180511 specifically teach the use of stearyl stearamide. Applicants submit the disclosure of JP 06-180511 would not lead one of ordinary skill in the art to "immediately envisage" stearyl stearamide. Cf. MPEP § 2144.08(II)(A)(4)(a); *In re Petering*.

Claim 29 adds the limitation that the Mn of the resin is from about 20,000 to 75,000 g/mol and that the Mw is from about 25,000 to about 125,000 g/mol. Support for this limitation can be found in the specification in ¶ [0019] on page 10 and in original claim 7. These ranges exclude the resins pointed to by the Examiner in Hamano and in Sacripante.

For these reasons, Applicants request withdrawal of the 103(a) rejections.

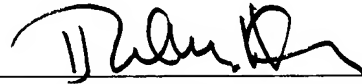
CONCLUSION

For these reasons, the pending claims (1, 3-8, 13-19, 22, and 26-29) are in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejections and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is requested.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, he is hereby authorized to call Richard M. Klein, at telephone number 216-861-5582, Cleveland, OH.

It is believed that no fee is due in conjunction with this response. If, however, it is determined that fees are due, authorization is hereby given for deduction of those fees, other than the issue fees, from Deposit Account No. 24-0037.

Respectfully submitted,
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